

Cooler and Folding Chair Holder for a Vehicle

5 **Field of Invention**

This invention relates to a holder for carrying a picnic cooler and a folding chair on a bicycle, or other vehicle.

Background of Invention

When travelling to the beach, river bank, or other outdoor location by
10 bicycle, or other vehicle such as a tricycle, all terrain vehicle, motor cycle, or
snowmobile, it is frequently desirable to transport a picnic cooler, containing
refreshments and the like, as well as some portable seating to be used upon
arrival at the outdoor location for picnicking, fishing, ice fishing or similar
activities. It is necessary, therefore, to provide some sort of carrier on the bicycle
15 to which a cooler may be secured for safe passage. Several patents have been
granted for such carriers, and attention is directed to US Patents 6,527,153;
5,024,359; 5,282,554 and 5,687,894, all of which describe different forms of
carriers for picnic coolers and the like. These carriers are all relatively complex,
bulky and expensive structures and not without their disadvantages. Thus, there
20 is a need for a simple structure to mount a cooler on a standard bicycle carrier,
which is generally, but not essentially, mounted over the rear wheel of a bicycle
and which includes provision for securing the cooler to the carrier using a folding
chair as part of the securement.

Object of Invention.

An object of the present invention is to provide a simple and inexpensive mount which can be secured to a carrier frame on a bicycle and to which a picnic
5 cooler and a folding chair may be secured.

Brief Statement of Invention.

By one aspect of this invention there is provided a cooler, folding stool and mounting means combination for detachable mounting of said cooler and folding
10 stool to a carrier mounted on a vehicle frame, comprising:
a folding stool having a pair of pivotally interconnected rectilinear frame members having a flexible seat means secured therebetween, adapted to be moved between an open operative position wherein said seat means is substantially planar and a closed inoperative position in which said rectilinear frames are in
15 substantially parallel overlying relationship;
a substantially rectangular cooler adapted so as to fit under said seat means and between said pair of interconnected rectilinear frame means when said folding stool is in said open position;
mounting means, mountable on said carrier and adapted to releasably engage a
20 portion of each of said pair of rectilinear frame members when said stool is in said open position , so as to hold said folding stool on said carrier; and
tensioning means to urge said rectilinear frame members into releasable engagement with said mounting means.

Brief Description of Drawings.

Fig 1 is a side view of the rear portion of a bicycle with a rear wheel carrier

5 according to one embodiment of the present invention mounted thereon;

Fig 2 is an end view of the bicycle of Fig 1;

Fig 3 is a plan view of the bicycle of Fig 1;

Fig 4 is a side view of the bicycle of Fig 1 with a cooler and chair stored on the carrier;

10 Fig 5 is an end view of the bicycle and cooler combination of Fig 4;

Fig 6 is a plan view of the bicycle and cooler combination of Fig 4; and

Fig 7 is a perspective view of a conventional folding camp stool.

Detailed Description of Preferred Embodiments

In Figs 1, 2 and 3 there is shown the rear half of a bicycle 1 having a

15 frame 2, saddle 3, front sprocket 4 and pedals 5 driving chain 6 and rear sprocket 7, which in turn turns rear wheel 8. A mudguard 9 protects wheel 8. A conventional substantially rectangular planar rear wheel carrier or rack 10 is mounted over wheel 8 and secured to rear frame member 11 at point 12, and supported by rack support arms 13,14 which may be secured at the lower ends

20 thereof to frame member 11 or to the rear wheel hub 15. As seen most clearly in Figs 2 and 3, a pair of transverse, generally, but not essentially, tubular members 16, 17 are clamped, bolted or otherwise secured to carrier 10, in

spaced parallel relationship. Tubular members 16,17 are provided with upwardly curved ends 18, 19 for reasons that will be apparent hereinafter.

In operation, a conventional, substantially rectangular, foam insulated, picnic cooler 20 (Figs 4,5 and 6) is placed on the carrier 10 and a conventional
5 folding campstool 21 is placed thereover. Preferably, but not essentially, cooler 20 is fabricated in a substantially rigid thermoplastics material. As seen more clearly in Fig 7, stool 21 comprises a pair of rectilinear frames 23, 24, pivotally interconnected at 24, 25 so as to form an X shape. A flexible canvas, or other fabric, seat 26 is provided between the upper horizontal members 27, 28 of
10 frames 22,23 so as to provide an upper horizontal seating surface when in the erected position. In the preferred embodiment, stool 21 is placed over the picnic cooler 20 so that the pivots 24, 25 are substantially parallel to the longitudinal axis of the bicycle 1 and carrier 10. The curved ends 18, 19 of tubular members 16, 17 are adapted to releasably receive and retain the lower horizontal frame
15 members 29, 30 of frames 23, 24. Frame members 29, 30 are secured in ends 18,19 by exerting outward pressure thereon. This is achieved by providing tensioning means, such as straps 31, 32 or elastic cord means between frame member pairs 27, 29 and 28, 30 respectively. If straps are used, then buckles 33, 34 may be provided to adjust the tension in straps 31,32. It will, of course, be
20 appreciated that it is not essential that members 16,17 be arranged transversely across carrier 10, but may equally well be arranged parallel the longitudinal axis of bicycle 1 without departing from the spirit and scope of the present invention.

Similarly, although this invention has been described primarily with reference to use on a bicycle, it will be appreciated that it may also be used with tricycles, or other pedal driven vehicles, or with motor cycles, motor scooters, all terrain vehicles and snowmobiles.